

## A New Approach for Ontario

Today's complex environmental issues require innovative solutions. Ontario is providing a range of new and innovative approaches to environmental management to complement traditional tools with more flexible, transparent, and cooperative tools.

Ontario's Environmental Leaders Program is a cooperative approach for partnering with companies that consistently meet regulatory requirements and are motivated to do more.

The Ministry of the Environment and industry have a successful history of entering into partnerships to achieve mutual goals. The Environmental Leaders Program will build on this foundation, bringing non-regulatory initiatives to a new level.

The program will allow progressive facilities to employ more effective and efficient environmental strategies, and opportunities to showcase their leadership to Ontario.

To find out more about this program, please contact:

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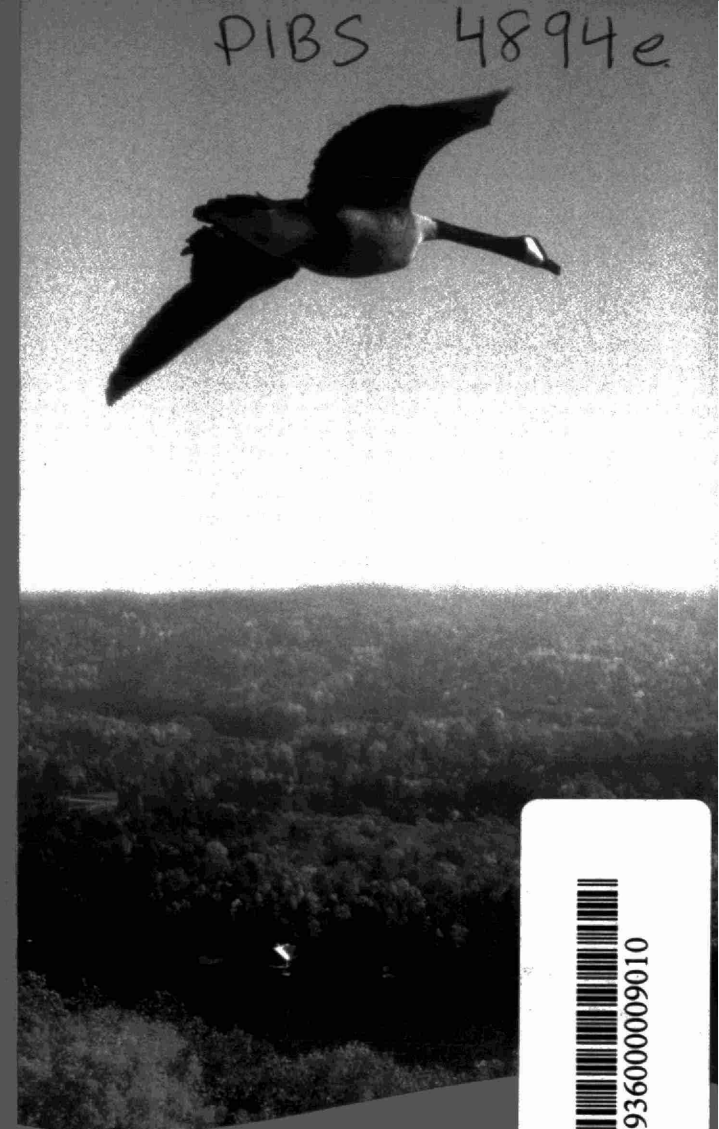
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# Ontario's Environmental Leaders Program

Protecting our environment.



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## Recognizing and Rewarding Environmental Leaders

The Environmental Leaders Program rewards facilities that go beyond compliance to reduce environmental impacts. We all share responsibility for environmental management, and by working together, our chances for success are far greater.



### The Program Benefits:

**Facilities**, by promoting results-based environmental management, public recognition, enhanced relations with the Ministry of the Environment, operating efficiencies, and increased certainty in planning.

**The environment**, by focusing on priority environmental issues and promoting continuous improvement and sustainable business principles.

**The public**, by providing better information and opportunities for dialogue with leading facilities in their community.

## Incentives for Participants

Participants are eligible for a comprehensive suite of incentives.

- **Recognition Incentives:**

Public acknowledgement by the ministry, including recognition on the ministry's website, and use of the program identifier.

- **Efficiency Incentives:**

Enhanced Comprehensive Certificate of Approval (CofA), 45-day turnaround time for CofA amendments, technical assistance, one-window access to the ministry, and fast-tracking new technology approvals.

- **Increased Communication Incentives:**

Participation in developing new incentives, greater regulatory certainty, and invitations to industry-government policy forums.



## How to Apply

The Environmental Leaders Program is focused on beyond-compliance environmental performance. If you have a good environmental track record, the ministry challenges you to take a leadership role and do more for the environment. Many of the entry requirements build on activities your facility already performs, including:

- An environmental management system
- Commitment to targets and plans for reducing priority substances
- A good compliance record
- Public outreach mechanisms

The Environmental Leaders Program has three tiers:

- A participants tier that is suited to facilities interested in pursuing an environmental management system (EMS) and continuous improvement.
- A leaders tier for those with an EMS and a commitment to reducing their environmental impacts.
- A champions tier for those who have already made significant progress in reducing their environmental impacts and are positioned to mentor others.

Ministry staff are available to assist facilities in the application process. A program guide, application, and other information is also available online at [www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/general/leadership/index.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/general/leadership/index.htm)